



SDM's main objectives

Establishing a transparent and stable Government to ignite an investors climate.

Supporting national consciousness and unity.

Empowering people by improving our education and by supporting inclusivity.

Safeguarding Economic Growth to create job opportunities for all.

Strengthening healthcare and promoting preventive health

Improving the Safety & Security throughout St. Maarten.

Upgrading the overall infrastructure, while protecting the environment.

‘The Status quo Got to Go!’

- ✓ Do you feel connected to your government?
- ✓ Do you feel safe to speak your mind without repercussions?
- ✓ Do you feel you can go somewhere when you have a complaint or when you need to resolve an issue involving your family?
- ✓ Do you feel you make enough money to cover your basic cost of living?
- ✓ Do you feel that you receive equal opportunity as everyone else in St. Maarten?
- ✓ Do you feel connected to your neighbors?
- ✓ Do you feel safe and secure in St. Maarten?
- ✓ Do you feel secure about your future?
- ✓ Do you believe in your legal system?

If you feel you answered too many of these questions with a NO, it is time to re-evaluate your vote. The St. Maarten Development Movement (SDM) is giving you the opportunity to change the status quo. SDM is not like any of the established parties. On the contrary, SDM is a movement that would like to work together with you to reach common goals and to address shared issues and concerns. SDM wants to get rid of the political equation that keeps St. Maarten from developing. It's time that all people in St. Maarten improve their quality of life and not just a selected few. It's time for new leadership and therefore it's time to VOTE differently. The last years it has been proven that those with political power cannot commit not to use it in their best interest. This Status Quo Got To Go. SDM guarantees you a professional, passionate and committed leadership focused on resolving the obvious issues our country is facing: a distrust in an inefficient operating government, a staggering economic growth, unemployment, people living under poor and unhealthy conditions, rising crimes, a neglected infrastructure. As progressive liberals, SDM wants to move all of us forward. By strengthening our forces, empowering, including and connecting all of us we could make a difference. Each and every one of you has a part to play in improving the well-being of our country to reach an improved quality of live for all. We just got to want it bad enough.

Establishing a transparent and stable Government to ignite an investor's climate

SDM believes the change you are looking for starts with good governance. Good Governance is the process and institutions through which decisions are made and authority in a country is exercised. Good governance entails inclusiveness, transparency and accountability. SDM believes all people in St. Maarten should be treated equal and provided the opportunity to participate in a governance process and to hold government accountable for decisions taken. Although Good governance is difficult to be measured, there are indicators specified by The World Bank that include Voice and Accountability, Political Stability, Absence of Violence, Government Effectiveness, Regulatory Quality, Rule of Law and Control of Corruption ("Governance Matters Index, The World Bank").

Since 1992 we have seen 14 governments. The average term of government has been little over 12 months. Since 2010 alone we had 5 governments that lasted only an average of 12 months. On top of this the average time to form a new government has been 4 months. It is safe to say that there has been no political stability in St. Maarten. This has a negative impact on our effective governing and strategic planning. Ad hoc decision making and inefficient expenditures get in the way of a pro-active problem-solving from government. Our politicians have furthermore shown to engage themselves in short term policy horizons with a focus on "political" projects that only maximize benefits within a short period, and moreover benefits a selected few. Not only you, as a citizen therefore lost confidence in our government. Also our private sector, that is important for investments.

To improve the quality of life for all SDM will aim future reform efforts at enhancing:

1. Transparency, inclusivity & accountability;
2. Political Stability, electoral reform and the rule of law;
3. Public Sector efficiency.

1. Transparency, inclusivity & accountability

We need to ensure a transparent government to fight corruption and create equal opportunities for all. It is important that you know exactly what goes on in your government and what role you could play in there.

SDM's Plan:

- Reviewing and strengthening of measures to enhance accountability in government;
- Strengthening the use of technology and usage of innovative strategies that will facilitate better access and flow of public information;
- Enhancing citizen participation and awareness;
- Enhancing of data availability in and outside government to enable to monitor any progress St. Maarten is making.

2. Political Stability, Electoral reform and the rule of law

Government needs to exercise its powers and responsibilities based on clear written rules and regulations in which there is no room for favoritism and/ or discrimination. All individuals need to be treated equal and ensured of their rights and freedoms within our laws.

SDM's Plan:

- Strengthen political parties as democratic institutions;
- Review our electoral system to rectify errors that compromise fair elections.

3. Enhance public sector efficiency

Administrative and bureaucratic bottlenecks in government have a negative effect on 'Serving the People'. Our government furthermore fails to give us a clear direction of where we need to go as country. Clarity of direction and intended expenditures will give businesses in and outside St. Maarten reason to invest and to make long-term commitments. A strong governance will in return attract business and relationships with (new) businesses will be easier to maintain.

SDM's Plan:

- Institutionalize guidelines in performance and professionalism;
- Review evaluations; sanction inefficiency and corruption and compensate good civil servants;
- Review the benefits and salary scheme of public managers and the civil service to assure there is parity of wages.

Supporting national consciousness and unity

SDM recognizes the importance of having a united St. Maarten in which you have a shared sense of identity and where you feel at 'home'. Our country can never reach its full economical potential if all of us don't feel that we belong to this island as equal citizens with equal rights and opportunities. We need to safeguard our unity in a divers St. Maarten, where we are confronted with different cultures, gender, social backgrounds, perceptions, attitudes and opinions.

St. Maarten needs to take a closer look at its immigration management. SDM is of the opinion that you cannot stop immigration but that you can manage immigration in such a way that it benefits the St. Maarten society and also the immigrants that enter new into our society. We as SDM believe that policies should benefit all people and not just a happy few. The immigration policies therefore need to form a sound solid base for our country to move forward in the twenty first century. St. Maarten should execute the immigration policy in a way that it contributes our economic and social growth and at the same time tackle the negative impacts that immigration has on our social infrastructure.

SDM therefore plans to review our immigration policies to:

SDM's Plan:

- Ensure that new cultures that enrich our society abide to our norms, values and good citizenship;
- Minimalize marginalization of immigrant groups and language barriers by mandatory programs (financed by immigrant) to uplift the social status of these groups to be included into society as equals.

Empowering people by improving our education and by supporting inclusivity

Education empowers people to take up job opportunities and to participate in building national consciousness. Education is a means to develop a qualified workforce that is community minded. It furthermore helps people to become self-sufficient, which will eventually contribute to eradicating poverty in St. Maarten.

The key facets of SDM's plan are therefore to empower every citizen to attain the highest level possible across a field of our country's needs while incorporating national consciousness. As such SDM believes the focus should be on improving the existing curriculum, the quality of teachers and school buildings, creating more activities for students, and ensuring that all students whether leaving or staying in St. Maarten can afford to pay for their tuition and materials.

SDM furthermore likes to put more emphasis on the rights of a child in schools, balanced by responsibilities. Students like everyone else in St. Maarten should be treated as individuals of worth and dignity. Education is a partnership between students, parents and educators. Therefore our children, as the primary consumers of education, should have rights and educators, as service providers, should recognize these rights. Rules pertaining to for example a child's personal appearance should be protected and defended at all times.

SDM's Plan:

- Promote more technical programs, with priority on plumbers, mechanics, electricians, and general contractors; along with the creation of small business loans guarantee schemes to create more job opportunities;
- Prioritize enhancing of teacher training and improving the competence of teachers;
- Implement an improved system of job training or create a new system of apprenticeships, so that students acquire skills needed for the job market;
- Further synchronize efforts between NIPA and USM on teacher training;
- Address the affordability of USM through reevaluating subsidy to the institution and

study-finance grants;

- Evaluate the functioning of the existing school boards, set new performance standards, and introduce more rigorous controls;
- Promote intense cooperation with school boards to create and enforce performance standards for school management teams, including appointing a teacher's representative in every school's management team;
- Require government to draft and implement a plan for the phased upgrading of all schools, including improving IT access and solar power;
- Evaluate and update salary scales for teachers;
- Evaluate the implementation of Foundation Based Education;
- Review and improve the curriculum;
- Stimulate remedial programs in English & Mathematics;
- Support attracting of more Information Technology (I.T.) teachers and male teachers;
- Promote introduction of Agriculture as either a core or an elective subject;
- Promote introduction of French & Spanish as core or elective subjects in primary schools;
- Introduce compulsory age-appropriate sex and relationships education in schools to teach respect in relationships;
- Promote the right of a child and the child's compliance with (outdated) school rules.

Safeguarding Economic Growth to create job opportunities for all

SDM's strongly relates the success of St. Maarten's economy to an effective government, transparency, accountability, and equality and equity. Currently a combination of corruption, capitalism, bad governance, a lack of investment in our economy and lack of protection of our environment and cultural heritage have impacted the growth and development St. Maarten. The mainstream political parties that have ruled this country for the past decades, have not been strategic enough on the long term. The country today is in desperate need of innovation, change and most important setting priorities for long term strategic planning.

One of the biggest problems in St. Maarten are the rising cost of living and unemployment. Statistics show that we have a high GDP, but in reality, due to the rise in costs of all basic necessities such as electricity, water, food, rent, education and health, the true economic situation of most families is not good. Whether it is bread, eggs or water and electricity or children's school fees, everything has become very expensive today. For the common man, inflation is reflected in the costs of daily necessities.

SDM feels that advocating a clean, transparent and effective governance is the starting point for St. Maarten's sustainable economic growth. As mentioned earlier it's a way to attract more investors from in and outside St. Maarten. A trustworthy government could furthermore stimulate Public-Private Partnerships which in turn could establish a more divers and vibrant economy with job opportunities.

SDM would furthermore like to explore possibilities to create a more vibrant economy in which former industries like Fishery and Agriculture are revived in support of our food security.

SDM's Plan:

- Stimulate investors and public private partnerships to boost the economy;
- Set up a legal framework needed to ensure that the government receives value for money with each PPP project;

- Maintain a sound sustainable policy environment in which economic and environmental policies are integrated;
- Invest in Information Technology, Agriculture, Fishery, local entertainment and the existing STA as key drivers of our economy;
- Benefit from Immigration that can lead to a boost in our economy in sectors where we need economic stimulation like ICT and other high tech economic sectors and brain gain sectors yet managed in a controlled fashion;
- Modernize the tax department to increase the production of workload and improve the overall tax-compliance;
- Create fiscal incentives to stimulate entrepreneurships and early tax submitting;
- Introduce true e-taxing;
- Prioritize development of social housing and mitigate social down turn affected by immigration, like inadequate housing;
- Prioritize national planning (buffering) for disasters (climate change);
- Maintain strong, close and frank relationships within the Kingdom, the region (French St. Martin) and the rest of the world.

Improving the Safety and Security

SDM supports and encourages practical and integrated measures, that will make St. Maarten a safe(r) place to raise our families and for our families to be (more) active in our communities.

Strong, secure communities create a united St. Maarten. Further development of our already existing community centers should assist in strengthening our communities. People from each and every community should be included in setting local priorities and planned reforms that focus on the specifics of their neighborhood to prevent crimes. Preventing crime in our communities cannot operate in isolation; Focus should be on working in partnerships to keep everyone safe and to prevent anti-social behavior from taking place in order to prevent crime. Strengthening our communities by strengthening the ties between each-other and with the community police in setting priorities together.

SDM furthermore advocates the prioritization of our youth. Our youth should be better protected against crimes being committed to them and our youth should be prevented from being drawn to crime. Already existing agencies in St. Maarten should intensify collaborations in preventing youth offending. Those at risk of drifting into criminal activities should be identified from an early age so they could be diverted into a more constructive way of life.

All victims and witnesses of crime should furthermore be encouraged and feel confident that when reporting a crime, their case will be dealt with thoroughly and fairly. Once reported, communities need confidence that criminals will be caught, punished and put back on the right track.

SDM's Plan:

- Promote strong community involvement ('look out for each other' mentality), while further strengthening existing community centers;
- Require the government to conduct an island wide "Safety & Security Survey" to determine what the safety issues are from the perspective of our people in the different

communities;

- Strengthen local accountability by giving communities a say in setting local priorities and hiring of community police officers;
- Support implementation of a well thought out Surveillance Program, that incorporates further implementation of camera projects and 'blue' on the streets;
- Implement arrangement for a proper public-private partnership to strengthen the capacity of the police;
- Promote and prioritize further development and implementation of a Youth Prevention Plan together with stakeholders (government departments and organizations);
- Review existing laws to bring in tough new laws that will protect children from abuse.

Strengthening healthcare and promoting preventive health

SDM believes that research and data are important to be able to make the right choices to improve our healthcare. Making the best use possible of data will first off all improve our understanding of diseases and treatments in St. Maarten. Having accurate data would furthermore improve patient care through more effective, targeted health interventions, yielding better results.

Keeping in mind that our health is influenced by our environmental and social circumstances SDM's ambition to improve the quality of life for all will ultimately have a positive impact on all of our health's. In St. Maarten we are however very prone to communicable diseases. Thousands of tourists visit/pass through our island on a daily basis. These environmental factors alongside social conditions and lifestyle choices, require St. Maarten to take preventive measurements that will on the long run reduce cardiovascular diseases, repertory diseases, non-communicable and communicable diseases.

Regular check-ups from birth, screenings, identifying of risk-factors in combination with having accurate data should be prioritized and supported by our government.

SDM's plan:

- Prioritize research and establishment of access to accurate data;
- Require the government to establish the leading causes of preventable deaths in St. Maarten;
- Promote preventive health and establish the cost-effectiveness on the long run.

Upgrading the overall infrastructure, while protecting the environment

The St. Maarten government is struggling to maintain its overall infrastructure. Constant ad-hoc upgrades to for example remove potholes on the roads have proven not to be the most efficient way to improve the existing infrastructure. Infrastructure on St. Maarten is however not only very important to the people living here, it is just like the environment very valuable to maintain our tourism sector. Lack of available funding and capacity in the public sector are often mentioned as reasons why our government is failing to maintain it.

SDM believes that setting up a proper partnership with the private sector could be part of a solution. By creating a legally binding contract or some other mechanism, in which is agreed to share responsibilities related to the implementation and/or operation and management of any infrastructural or environmental project which includes the financing thereof.

SDM's Plan:

- Implement institutional arrangements and developed manuals and resource materials in support of PPP development and for the capacity-building of public officials;
- Create a world-class infrastructure and optimized transportation sector, to ensure a dynamic tourism economy;
- Require the government to set up a long term planning in protection of our biodiversity and mangroves, with annual updates to parliament, including how to reverse certain declines species and their natural habitat;
- Tackle environmental crimes with increased enforcement of environmental regulations by all relevant authorities and higher penalties to ensure environmental crime is not a financial risk worth taking;
- Review and improve the regulations of SLAC and SMTA in relation to the lagoon clean up;
- Promote agriculture and its benefits;
- Promote fresh and salt pond cleanup as natural reserve for flora and fauna; and look into possibilities to use it as tourist's attractions;

- Create and safeguard fishing grounds for local fisherman;
- Support alternative energy and reduce GEBE's Fuel Clause.

SDM's CANDIDATE LIST

1 Ortega, Benjamin



I am **Benjamin Ortega**, founder and leader of the SDM. People also know me as 'Benny' from St. Peters. Born and raised in St. Maarten, I completed my MBO Civil Engineering in the Netherlands. After my studies I started my career in the Netherlands and specialized in Asphalt & Concrete Pavement, Urban Development and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). After 14 years, I returned to St. Maarten and started as Project Manager for Public Works. Here I initiated the improved asphalt patch work program and designed, engineered and executed many infrastructural projects such as the upgrading of Cole Bay Hill, LB Scot road and Retreat Estate. At present I work at the Port of St. Maarten as Facility Manager. Here I successfully contribute to the FIX-IT mentality of the harbor, ensuring that innovation, adaptation and project management skills are key to the success of having a well maintained and operating Port Facility. As Member of Parliament I will focus on a more efficient and effective operating government that will be able to stimulate economic growth, by sharing responsibilities with the Private Sector in a quest to improve the quality of live for all. Setting up a legal framework that attracts investors and in which procurement processes for Public Private Partnerships will be based on transparency, fairness, efficiency and effectiveness, protection of public property and public interest, and accountability.

2 Bute, Arthur



I am **Arthur Bute**, a successful businessman in St. Maarten and well known for my contribution as a Board member of the Social Economical Council (SER) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. My family name originates from St. Maarten and I have strong roots on both the Dutch and French side of St. Maarten. I studied Public Administration at the UNA (University of the Netherlands Antilles and obtained my diploma's in Marketing (NTI) and Middle Management. I am furthermore certified in Tourism Security Management, Corporate Governance, and Physical Vulnerability Assessments and also successfully finished the Program "*De Authentieke en effectieve Commissaris St. Maarten (AEC)*". As aspiring Member of Parliament I will positively contribute in the fields of Tax compliance, economic development and immigration. I pledge to educate, legislate and propose execution plans that will benefit to the overall improvement of St. Maarten.

3 Richardson, Rosemary



I am **Rosemary Richardson** also known as 'Rosey'. Born and raised in St. Maarten I studied Elementary education at the University of the Virgin Islands and obtained my Bachelor's degree. In 2009, I received my Masters in Business Administration at the University of Phoenix where I specialized in Accounting. I have been a teacher on elementary level for over a decade. Today I am teaching Business Administration and Commerce at the St. Maarten Academy P.S.V.E (5 years and counting) and I give an 'Introduction to Accounting' at the University of St. Martin. I am proud to say that for over 15 years I have played and will continue to play a crucial role in improving many young lives in St. Maarten through education. At present I am eager to take my knowledge and experience to another level and therefore choose to join the SDM team to contest the upcoming elections. As Member of Parliament I will prioritize education as the basic building block for development, where the empowerment of our people should be placed first to improve the quality of live for all.

4 Matser, Raymond



I am **Raymond Matser**, born in the Netherlands and raised in St. Maarten (Middle Region) since the age of 2. I have studied at the HLO (laboratory Education) in the Netherlands and served time in the Dutch military service. I obtained my work experience in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Europe, the US and the Caribbean. In 1991 I returned to St. Maarten and contributed to some of the groundbreaking companies in the ICT world (NCR, ECC, AIS). After 20 years in the ICT sector I choose for change and took up a position within VROMI as acting Head of Domain Affairs. In 2014 I resigned to take care of my family and to assist my wife with a start of her own business. As Member of Parliament I will use my entrepreneur skills and Mr. Clean-up mentality to enhance the government's efficiency.

5 Frederick, Terrance



I am **Terrance Frederick**, also known as 'Terry'. Born and raised in St. Maarten, I have studied in the Netherlands where I obtained my degree in Electrical Engineering and Social Orientation, as well as my Doctorate of Divinity and Theology. Back in St. Maarten I at first started my own daycare center. Switching to something completely different I moved into the transportation sector directly after and became the General Secretary of the Dutch St. Maarten Taxi Association Executive Board. During my tenure as the general secretary, I strived to enhance and strengthen the association to benefit all taxi drivers. While fostering a close working relationship with the Port of St. Maarten and many cruise executives, I see myself a Tourism Ambassador, and will always remain passionate about the tourism industry. At present I am the owner and Managing Director of Imperial Security Services (ISS) while remaining connected to the transportation sector. As Member of Parliament I have my heart set on improving the public transportation of St. Maarten in a way that will benefit us all.

6 Busby, James



I am **James Busby**, born and raised in St. Maarten and specialized in various sections of Sports Development and (technical) management processes. While living in the Netherlands I developed sporting infrastructures in various municipalities. Ever since I returned to St. Maarten, I have been working for the St. Maarten Government for the last 28 years. Next to being a civil servant executing projects my heart goes out to the communities where I love to volunteer in the field of Sports. I furthermore am an advisor for the Sports Department. As Member of Parliament I will focus on strengthening our communities and existing community centers to ensure unity in which we all have a role to play to enhance our overall safety and security.